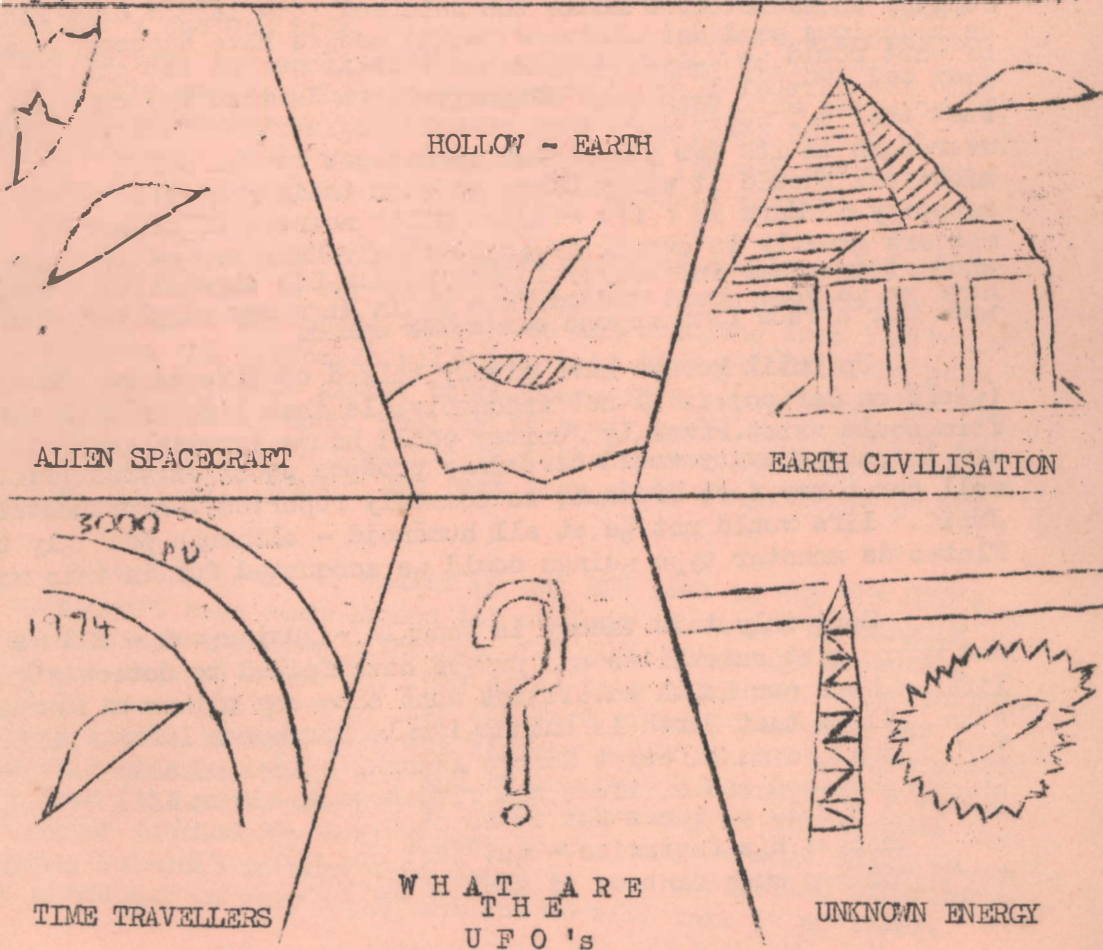


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1) ETH - Our Solar system:

Probably still the most popular theory, though the media would have you believe it is the only one, is the ETH (Extra terrestrial hypothesis). This is the belief that UFO's are the product of an advanced civilisation not of this planet. Within our own solar system there is a very narrow belt within which life as we know it can exist. Venus, once thought to possess tropical forests, is now known to be a blazing inferno with a super-refractive atmosphere which might even allow you to see right around the world and view the back of your own head! Jupiter on the other hand is too cold and this leaves only Mars as a dubious candidate. However recent probes have discovered signs of what could be water erosion and this increases the chances despite the virtual lack of atmosphere. There is also the curious fact that UFO reports to some extent show a sharp increase whenever Mars in its two year cycle is closest to the Earth. You might ask should it worry Ufonauts with their fantastic speed capacity if Mars is a few million miles nearer? Of course it matters greatly to ourselves (that is why Mars probes are launched at two year intervals). To not matter UFO capabilities would have to be very great indeed. Then again Mars may simply be the base for a race from beyond our solar system.

Up until now we have simply talked of life as we know it (based on Carbon). It is not inconceivable that life in some other form could exist. Possibly Jupiter could house ammonia based life and the high gravity would certainly produce squat figures (fitting well our three foot Ufonauts so commonly reported). Unfortunately Jupiter life would not be at all humanoid - although possibly the Flatwoods monster type beings could be accounted for in this way.

Certainly this theory is tenable - just about - and we need not worry that satellites and probes have failed to detect signs of life. After all our Earth satellites don't show any either and some even tell us that Earth is uninhabitable for human life. Still it looks as if we must forget George Adamki's idea of all the planets being inhabited and of trees and rivers on the Moon. Adamki was a little off the mark a couple of times for it to seem that he may have been right amongst his fantasies - but just how much of his writings are truth and how much fantasy is another matter.

Nevertheless the ETH is far from exhausted.

2) ETH - Other systems:

Extending the ETH beyond our solar system presents problems. The speed of light is thought to be a limiting factor (though see page 6) and this means that because of the fantastic distances involved the travelling time between stars would be immense. If you put a scale the distance Earth to Moon (our achievement so far taking three or four days) equal to the six inches or so along this line you would have to go to America AND back twice to reach the nearest star - and most are hundreds of times further. Of course speed can be improved by an advanced civilisation but even at just below light speed it would take years for a one way trip. This is a lot in our life span but to a Redwood tree (which lives thousands of years) it's not too much a burden. Who can say that our span is average? Also some form of hibernation process may be used to slow down aging during the trip or the Ufonauts could be androids or robots (though how the data would be referred back to home planet is another matter).

Still the ETH is not stumped by these questions. It is thought that space is curved and that there is a quicker way to get across these distances. Imagine an ant crawling from the top of this page to the bottom. It will take some time. But fold the page over so that the ends almost touch. There is a gap between the top and bottom which is much smaller if a way could be found for the ant to bridge it. It is possible that the mysterious 'black holes' in space are these gaps - and that they could be gateways to the stars.

More difficult to answer by any ETH idea is why the UFO's if spacecraft have been around for so long in almost unchanging form (consider the cave paintings of 10,000 years ago depicting discs and cigars) - and why they still have not shown their purpose to us. Of course it is true that our form of air transport has altered little in form over its history - but it has to some extent (and will continue to do so) and we are only dealing with a short time span (though to the UFO's 10,000 years may be short). This last point is the only real answer to why they should still be carrying out what in many ways seems to be a controlled experiment. This point may be very important and we will take it up later.

3) TIME TRAVELLERS:

The beauty of this idea is that it can easily explain why the UFO's have been around for so long in virtually the same form and why their motives have not changed. It also would answer why there are time cycles of Ufo activity since it may be inherent in the form of temporal travel that certain times are more easily reached.

Basically the theory is that UFO's are time machines from our own future scientifically exploring the past. The past to them includes our ancient and more recent past, our present and our future so that to us (assuming the machines come from one era's civilisation) the UFO's would not appear to change much. Or of course the different types of UFO could be from different civilisations and eras and it would be interesting to find out if certain humanoid types seem to belong to certain UFO shapes. It is of course foolish to believe that there will not be physical changes in the human body as evolution plays its coming role. These changes could very well account for the different UFO humanoids.

One point is very significant. If time travel EVER becomes a real possibility then we should expect that a scientific investigation would be launched to probe the past. Of course these time travellers should be in evidence now - and throughout history - and if they are not then we must conclude that it NEVER will be possible. Since more and more it is becoming likely that at least directly recapturing past energies is possible this theory certainly has something to say for itself. Of course it may be that actual physical time travel is not possible - or that if it is intervention in affairs is not possible or allowed. This would neatly sum up the UFO attitude. Could it not be also that intervention is carried out to achieve scientific advancement and that the instilling of a belief that UFO's are spacecraft by the UFO time travellers is just what they want in order to spur us on towards future contact or interstellar journeys

4) EARTH CIVILISATIONS:

Although it may at first sight seem very improbable it is conceivable that there is another civilisation living concurrently with ourselves on planet Earth. Stories of ancient lost cities high on mountains and deep in jungles still abound and it is true that certain parts of the world are still relatively unexplored. It is said that Atlantis or Lemuria (if it is accepted that they existed) had scientific capabilities well beyond those of the present day.

Indeed it is speculated that these civilisations were destroyed by just the potential fate (self-destruction) which awaits us. The idea is that certain of the inhabitants could have survived to keep the culture alive and it is they who are piloting the UFO's (possibly mutated because of the war which destroyed their species). Perhaps they are trying to ensure that we avoid this fate.

Another intriguing theory is that we are not the dominant creatures on this planet. Would we know if we were not? It may be that like the ant we lack the full senses to detect a more dominant species. Man, however, is just another step up the long ladder of evolution. The steps smoothly run into each other and it would be very egocentric to believe we are the top rung that could come after man? We cannot imagine readily - but perhaps the UFO's have something to do with it. Think of the ant conserving our human transport with its incomplete sensory arrangement. It may be significant that every race has stories of goblins and fairies - possessing 'magical' powers (though magic is relative to scientific understanding). These are often about 3' tall as are our good friends the Ufonauts.

An old fashioned theory was that the Ufo was the product of one of our own countries - Russia or America, but the likelihood of this is not only disputed by capabilities and historical facts but also because surely if one country held this secret they would rule the world by now. (Maybe, incidentally that is why politically UFO's are denounced despite all the evidence whilst in secret frantic research is going on to be the first nation to crack the UFO enigma - and prize)

5) HOLLOW EARTH:

Only a brief summary will be given of this idea since it is contrary to all scientific knowledge that the Earth could be hollow. This is not to say it is wrong and that there is not a subterranean race there but it would be hard to overcome the lack of gravity and magnetic anomalies, the excessive heat or the presence of seismic waves (impossible if the Earth is hollow). Of course there is a modified version, backed to some extent by satellite photos of an apparent hole at the North pole, in that there is a depression in the ice cap leaving a plateau of solid ground surrounded by walls of ice. Again this is supposedly the home of the UFO's. Finally on the Terrestrial subject what of underwater. There is so much virgin space there that almost anything COULD exist.

NATE FIRTH:

This theory takes us further than ever into realms of speculative science for it is not proven that alternate dimensions do exist - although there are certainly theoretical reasons for supposing that they do. It is known that time is an extremely complex affair and that our conditioned thinking in terms of three dimensions (length, breadth and height) may not be the whole story. Often the point is illustrated by asking you to imagine a flatland being who lives in only two dimensions (ie the plane of this sheet of paper). To him thickness is not possible and so anything travelling along this dimensional plane would only be 'real' to him when it intersected his dimensions (ie it is passed through the sheet). The object would consequently only appear and disappear - much as certain UFO types do. It is speculated therefore that UFO's could be a phenomena of a dimension which we are not aware and that they only become 'real' to us when they intersect our world of dimensions. Some people develop the idea further and say that there is a complete Earth which is perpetually 'real' to us and that this has followed a slightly different pattern of evolution - hence the 'superior' science of the UFO's. Some even say that there are an infinite number of dimensions, and an infinite number of alternate Earths - so that in truth anything is possible (just like the old saying that if you gave him enough monkeys enough typewriters and enough time sooner or later one of them would type out the complete works of Shakespeare).

In a sense there is some evidence for this theory in that recently discovered particles in high energy Physics (Tachyons) seem to have the property of exceeding the speed of light, which is something none of 'our' particles can do. Hence it is thought that they represent a complete set of new particles which cannot go slower than the speed of light - members in fact of an alternate universe.

If this is the source of UFO reports then it explains not only the apparent unreality, at times, of UFO's but also their persistence as a seemingly objective but non-interfering phenomena. It could also explain why waves occur since this could represent the time cycle of interpenetrations of the different universes.

7) UNKNOWN ENERGY:

The last couple of ideas we are going to look at get away altogether from the civilisation theories and concern energies. This of course does not account at all for UFO occupants (unless as a side effect of the energy) but even if this theory does not answer all the questions we feel that it is a distinct possibility in certain cases. These are basically the fuzzy sphere or ball (often green or orange). In many ways these seem related to both meteors and ball lightning (showing similar properties though that could mean Ufos = ball lightning OR vice versa). The idea is that these Ufos are forms of plasma (virtually raw energy trapped within magnetic fields). Rejected by many because it is not as attractive an idea as 'men from Mars' it nevertheless answers why Ufos disturb electrical instruments (the EM effect), why Ufos often change colour, why Ufos cause burns and why Ufos can hover like a single degree turns and travel extremely fast. The list could continue but the point is that Plasma UFO's are a definite possibility for many reports (NOT it is agreed for metallic saucers and the like) but even this theory is not taken seriously by many scientists which shows their lack of objectivity rather well.

But to complicate the issue still further we come across the problem of relating UFO's with psychic activity. Why do this? Simply because areas with high incidence rates of UFO activity often have high incidence rates of poltergeist and related phenomena. The theory is that these regions have high concentrations of an unknown energy like magnetic or gravity which is not evenly distributed over the earth's surface. Just as when a stone is dropped in water the energy (ripples) persist for some time these areas seem to trap energy emanated from violent events such as murders or suicides. Could the Ufos be manifestations of this energy (explaining why there are so many inter-relations) or just as ghosts are past events trapped in the energy field could Ufos be future events similarly trapped (eg our own future creations by harnessing this same energy).

Do ongoing events cast their shadows before? We believe there is evidence that they do (certainly as a potential event) before the stone is dropped the potential is there.

CONCLUSION:

In these few pages it is impossible to do full justice to the many theories put forward to explain the UFO enigma. Those which we have discussed are not the only ones by any means. Some people try to show that UFO's are purely a psychological phenomena (although quite how you can photograph this is not discussed). There is an extension of this into the possibility that we were planted on this world from elsewhere. The UFO's were that races' craft and we still keep the racial memory of this. Again it is thought that we may simply be the property of some superior species. Either as a genetic experiment or simply as their playthings (not a very nice thought).

Other theories which we have not had space to consider are that the phenomena is really a living being which consumes space energy (the mysterious angel hair is presumably its waste matter when it is caught short) or of course that there is nothing there to explain at all. Only those who have not studied the evidence believe this and really this is the one theory which we can conclusively say is not true.

As for all the others. Where does the solution lie? Is it amongst these pages somewhere or are we simply groping in the dark after an answer which is just too far beyond our comprehension? In truth we cannot say. MAPIT will never be able to answer this. Only a concerted effort by the worlds top minds and resources for several years MIGHT be able to - but just as probably they wont.

The ideas expressed in this thesis are not at all representative of either MAPIT as a whole nor Ufology in broader terms but simply the collected thoughts of Chris Randles and Dave Rees. Friendly argument is healthy and essential (even between the two of us) - but we both believe that it is very likely that there is more than one solution to be found.